



Maricopa County

News Release

Environmental Services Department

1001 N. Central Avenue
Suite 400

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Phone: 602-506-6611

TDD: 602 372-0622

Fax: 602-506-1874

www.maricopa.gov/envsvc

For additional information:

Johnny Diloné, Public Information Officer
Environmental Services Department
Office: 602-506-6611
Cell: 602-525-2423

Kishonna Gray, Public Information Assistant
Environmental Services Department
Office: 602-506-0386
Cell: 602-525-4348

June 22, 2009

NATIONAL MOSQUITO CONTROL AWARENESS WEEK

Raise Awareness with Maricopa County Environmental Services Department

The week of June 21 – June 27, 2009 has been declared the thirteenth annual “National Mosquito Control Awareness Week” by the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA). Maricopa County Environmental Services Department will participate in helping county residents become more familiar with mosquito breeding and the dangers that mosquitoes could potentially pose.

“During ‘Mosquito Week’, Environmental Services goal will be to educate the general public about the significance of mosquitoes in their daily lives and the important service provided by Vector Control inspectors of Maricopa County, said John Kolman, Environmental Services department interim director.

Vector Control is the Maricopa County Environmental Services department’s division that investigates citizen complaints dealing with mosquitoes, flies and non-native rodents. Vector Control inspectors identify routine breeding sites and apply the appropriate treatments. They also perform surveillance activities to identify new or potential mosquito breeding sites and work in conjunction with State officials in monitoring and testing of mosquito samples that are collected on a monthly basis and tested for arbo-viruses.

Maricopa County’s Public Information Office has made available a multitude of distribution material related to West Nile virus, mosquito awareness, and Aedes aegypti. In addition to this material, presentations and educational programs for children, adults, and community organizations are available for residents to take advantage of.

“The overall goal is personal safety”, said John Townsend, Vector Control division manager. Townsend also urged residents to utilize the following tips to maximize their protection from West Nile Virus (WNV).

- Limit outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- If you are outside, cover up by wearing long-sleeved shirts, pants, shoes and socks, if possible.
- Use mosquito repellent on exposed skin according to label instructions. CDC recommends using repellent containing DEET.
- Eliminate standing water on your property which can become possible mosquito breeding sites. These include but are not limited to standing waters in tires, plastic containers, or any water holding container.

For more information on West Nile virus, mosquito eating fish, to report green pools or file any mosquito related complaint, or for WNV materials or presentations for your group/organization, call (602) 506-0700 and visit www.maricopa.gov/wnv.

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